

# Kissinger — Nixon's shot caller

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Washington

It is the light shed on the operation of the Nixon administration rather than any specific new revelations that is the arresting part to many of the so-called Anderson papers being revealed by syndicated columnist Jack Anderson from hush-hush official documents on the India-Pakistan crisis.

The whole issue of the so-called "Metternich role" of Dr. Henry A. Kissinger as adviser to the President on international affairs is brought up, by the exposure of how it works in practice. Dr. Kissinger is not secretary of state, and yet, in this instance, he was apparently calling the shots and delivering orders from the absent President to the prestigious top-level White House Security Action Group (WSAG), including the head of CIA and chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

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Dr. Kissinger is liked by the press, and his frequent backgrounders are often illuminating and helpful, yet his credibility is now raised. In two backgrounders, for example, he said the administration had no advance inkling of the Indian attack on Pakistan, yet a confidential cable to Secretary of State William P. Rogers from U.S. Ambassador Kenneth B. Keating (Nov. 12) at New Delhi reportedly said that war was "imminent."

A wave of sympathy for Mr. Nixon is expected on the grounds that nobody can carry on foreign policy easily or perhaps successfully when confidential talks at highest levels are disclosed.

Almost everybody here seems to agree with this.

On the other hand there is a feeling that official secrecy has been carried to preposterous lengths. This is another aspect of the instability in the situation, like Dr. Kissinger's own role, that the Anderson papers affect. There are other aspects of the administration position.

For example, advisers to the President simply shrug their shoulders ironically over the alleged "slanting" of the American press in ways counter to administration foreign policy in this instance, considering it inevitable.

Another theme is how President Nixon asserts authority over the prestigious WSAG through Dr. Kissinger. But in the Pakistan crisis WSAG did not meet directly at critical moments with the President who sent his directions through Dr. Kissinger.

## FBI continues search

Meanwhile the FBI continues the search for the source of the leak, and two house committees are starting their own investigation.

G. Warren Nutter, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Security Affairs, in an exchange with Dr. Kissinger during a White House WSAG session Dec. 4, gave the administration's mood to the press.

"It goes without saying," according to Mr. Nutter, "that the entire press is slanting this war to place the entire blame on the Pakistanis and to show that they attacked India."

Mr. Nutter's comment was recorded in a "memorandum for record" by James H. Noyes, a deputy to Mr. Nutter, that was leaked to the columnist by sources unknown. It purportedly quotes participants directly instead of in paraphrase as in an earlier published memorandum prepared by Navy Capt. Howard N. Kay. And like the Johnson administration, the Nixon administration has had trouble with the press. In this instance administration officials at WSAG discussed procedures for "tilting" government response against the Indian Government, in a situation where the administration placed blame on New Delhi.

## Nixon anger discussed

The WSAG was told of Mr. Nixon's anger at the version of affairs that was coming out from press backgrounders at the State Department.

"Both Yahya [West Pakistan President Yahya Khan] and Mrs. Gandhi are making billicose statements. If we refer to Mrs. Gandhi's in our statement, do we not also have to refer to Yahya's?" asked Samuel De Palma, assistant secretary of state for international organizations.

Dr. Kissinger replied, "The President says either the bureaucracy should put out the right statement on this or the White House will do it. Can the UN object to Yahya's statements about defending his country?" Mr. De Palma replied, "We will have difficulty in the UN because most of the countries who might go with us do not want to tilt toward Pakistan to the extent we do."

"Whoever is doing the backgrounding at State," Dr. Kissinger reportedly answered, "is invoking the President's wrath. Please try to follow the President's wishes."